



NIEHS

Worker Education and Training Program

April 21-23, 2004
Washington, DC

**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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MEETING NOTES FROM KEYNOTE ON CHEMICAL FACILITIES SAFETY AND SECURITY: TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS ISSUES

Thursday, April 22

Keynote on Chemical Facilities Safety and Security: Training and Preparedness Issues

Rixio Medina

Rixio Medina, a recent Bush appointee and former chemical company executive shared his perspective on the complicated issue of chemical security. He related his experience in the private sector and his new role as a member of the Chemical Safety Board.

The CSB was conceived by congress following a series of catastrophic industrial accidents in mid to late 1980. It was authorized under the 1990 clean air act amendments 42 USC-7412 (r)(6) and funded in 1998. It independently investigate chemical accidents or potential chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities that result or had the potential to result in fatality, serious injury or substantial property damage such as the one caused by fires and explosions, that can harm the public, employees or the environment.

It is required to determine the root causes and contributing causes in our investigation and not blame or determine who is liable as a result of an accident. It is required to report to the public the facts, condition, circumstances and probable causes of accidental chemical releases, hazards or potential hazards. It holds public meetings in the area where the accident happened, and shares Information though publications and a website.

The Board is authorized to issue recommendations aimed to reduce the risk and consequences of accidental releases or potential hazards and to propose corrective measures to improve the safety of industrial facilities producing, processing, handling and storing chemicals.

From the time the CSB started operations though the end of March of 2004, it has completed 20 accident investigations. It is currently investigating 8 accidents that occurred in 2003. We have completed 5 hazard studies and have 2 in progress during the same timeframe. The CSB has issued a total of 198 recommendations, 53 of which have been fully implemented and 145 are still opened. 14% of the recommendations were issued to specialty chemical companies, 13% to oil and gas and petroleum refining, 12% to chlorine repackaging facilities 8 % to the wood & pulp industry, 7% to petroleum products such as oil blending and lubricant operations, 5% to waste treatment and disposal facilities, 3% to petrochemical companies and the remaining 25% of the recommendations were issued to a variety of industries. 30% of the recommendations have been issued to professional and trade associations, mainly requesting that the report, lessons learned and recommendations be shared with their constituents. 25% were issued to industrial facilities involved in the accident, 20% to the corporate offices of those industrial facilities, 25% to governmental agencies including OSH and EPA, 8% to Union and 1% to trade associations and academia.